

# Evaluation of Freshwater Uses and Bacteria



South Carolina DHEC is evaluating our freshwater water quality program.

- DHEC has had a comprehensive water quality monitoring program in place for over 25 years.
- We monitor over 1,300 locations statewide and perform approximately 101,500 water quality tests annually.
- The presence of fecal coliform bacteria is currently used as an indicator for water quality standards.
- The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that states use a more specific indicator of water quality.
- DHEC is beginning a study to determine what indicator will provide the most meaningful and realistic protection for the waters of our state.
- This change would affect ambient water quality monitoring, bacterial standards, permitting, recreational use assessments, and the 303(d) list.
- For information and updates visit our website:  
[www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/fwater.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/fwater.htm)  
or email us at [bacteria@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:bacteria@dhec.sc.gov)